varies between various cities and rural areas. While the servicee is not entirely satisfying, keeping in view the various constraints, it cannot be considered unsatisfactory.

Again, while the cost to the Indian customer may appear high in relation to the average per capita income, it compares favourably with the cost for similar service in many countries. This is creditable considering that the costs of equipment and materials in India is generally comparable or even more than in many of these countries.

(b) The over-head costs on telephones in India are among the lowest.

(c) It is true that the number of telephones per employee in India at 9.4 is significantly lower than in many countries. This, however, is due to the fact that to meet the maximum possible demand and extend the services to the maximum number of places within the limited investible resource many of the operations continue to be handled manually while these have been automated in other countries. Similarly many old technologies requiring large maintenance have to be retained.

Funds for Kashi Vidyapeeth

*439. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission has recently requested for allocation of funds for the Kashi Vidyapeeth;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on the request; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (d) Out of the funds allocated to the University Grants Commission, a development grant of Rs. 60 lakhs has been approved for Kashi Vidyapeeth during the Seventh Plan as per details given below:—

	(Rs. lakhs)
Buildings	20
Books and journals	15
Equipment	4
Staff (teaching, technical)	21

Steps to popularise Sanskrit

*440. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps were taken by Government to popularise the Sanskrit language and its learning in the country during the year 1986-87; z

(b) whether it is a fact that teaching and learning of Sanskrit in the lower educational curriculum has declined because of the three-language formula;

(c) what measures are being taken to promote Sanskrit education; and

(d) what amount was spent on promotion of Sanskrit in the country during 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO). (a) and (c) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) It is true that the Three Language Formula does not specifically in-